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Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, OE-20
US Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20585

RE: Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor,
Aka Mid-Atlantic Area National Interest Electric Transmission (NIET) Corridor
Attn: Docket No. 2007-OE-01

APPLICATION FOR REHEARING – November 5, 2007

I am applying to the Department of Energy (DOE) for rehearing of the DOE's designation of the Mid-Atlantic Area National Corridor pursuant to the Federal Power Act (FPA) Section 3131 as a part to the proceeding in Docket No. 2007-OE-01.

I have attached my testimony to the DOE dated July 6, 2007. I am deeply disappointed that the Department of Energy did not apparently address the concerns of the many, many individuals who testified before them.

The Greene County Commissioners and the Department of Economic Development remain concerned that the DOE has not taken steps necessary to promote a progressive national energy policy that balances and promulgates the conservation of resources, advanced energy technologies, reduces greenhouse gas emissions, protects the public interest, states rights and the quality of life of the residents of this nation. Consolidating electric transmission is an obvious and unwarranted risk that jeopardizes the security of this nation.

In addition, the underlying data supporting the DOE's Congestion Study, and the reasons it is designating these huge NIET Corridors, has not been released. We continue to request that the DOE immediately release all underlying data.

I respectfully request a rehearing in the Pittsburgh, PA area.

SINCERELY,
Greene County Department of Economic Development

Robbie M. Matesic, Executive Director

CORNERSTONE OF THE KEYSTONE STATE

BEFORE THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

RE: DRAFT NIETC DESIGNATION
DOCKET NUMBERS: 2007-OE-01 and 2007-OE-02

COMMENTS

US DOE's Public Meeting

Pittsburgh, PA

June 13, 2007

My name is Robbie Matesic and I am the Executive Director of the Greene County, PA - Department of Economic Development. Due to the fact that the Department of Energy's announcement for today's Public Meeting did not state this, I understand now, for the first time, that our comments are to be limited to "the designation of a National Corridor" and "not to debate the merits of proposed transmission projects, or of non-transmission solutions to congestion problems."

Questioning the "merits of proposed transmission projects"

Mr. Meyers and Ms. Merton—please understand that the very designation of Draft NIETC has opened the door to the new transmission projects and neglected the non-transmission solutions. The NIETC Designation leads us back to questioning the "merits of proposed transmission projects" and wondering when the "non-transmission solutions to congestion problems" would become the order of discussion?

Today our comments about Allegheny Power's TrAIL project are "directly linked" to the Draft NIETC—and just a little bit ago you heard Mr. Haney (President, TrAIL Co.) "directly link" the TrAIL project to NIETC. He

explained the importance and praised the DOE for the NIETC so that TrAIL can be advanced. Please do not dismiss this.

Evaluating direct, secondary and cumulative impacts of NIETC

The issues that are being brought forth in this Public Meeting today are valid, although they may not necessarily be limited to "the designation of a National Corridor". However, they are brought forth because the:

- Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Epact)
- U.S. DOE's National Electric Transmission Congestion Study that justifies the "designation of a National Corridor"
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's decisions

have opened the door and allowed the TrAIL project to advance. If the direct, secondary and cumulative impacts of new transmission projects would be evaluated, and an evaluation of prudent alternatives would be required, the TrAIL project would not be advancing, as it is today.

The Epact, the Congestion Study and the Draft NIETC fail to require these evaluations, yet the Draft NIETC has a provision for eminent domain??

There is a terrible gap and Allegheny Energy has moved forward to fill that gap—with the TrAIL project – and an aggressive schedule for construction in 2008.

The U.S. Department of Energy must take action to prevent the gaps it allowed to happen. Please connect the dots, fill the gap and require the full compliance of the National Environmental Policy Act for any Federal Action—which is only fair to the citizens of the U.S. and precisely the thing that an electric company would dread, if a new transmission line would be their Plan A for profit. Allegheny Power's TrAIL project is not necessarily in the public's interest, and without a lawful and comprehensive evaluation, a tragic mistake will take place in Greene County, PA for the benefit of a private interest.

You have been placed in a role of significant responsibility for you advise the Secretary of Energy who advises the President, and Congress. And, you advise on an incredibly complicated environmental, economic and global issue. With all due respect to you, your knowledge, experience and position

in electricity - for you to advise that the federal government should be part of promoting incentives to aggressively build new transmission lines across PA as the US Energy Policy solution - has caused you, the Department of Energy, the Vice President and the President a significant loss of credibility in the eyes of thousands. We have their petitions, and the numbers across the country are growing to hundreds of thousands.

Non-transmission solutions to congestion problems

I ask that you, the Secretary of Energy and the Department require that **hefty financial incentives** that effectively reduce energy consumption and promote cleaner and more efficient technologies in energy transmission and generation and the upgrade of existing facilities are provided. Mandating energy solutions for environmental stewardship at the federal level should be a priority matter for the US DOE. (. . .as opposed to designating a massive NIETC with uncertain eminent domain provisions but without a thorough evaluation of impacts and prudent alternatives.) Commanding leadership on a very complicated matter is needed, now, from the US DOE.

Freedom of Information Act requests

Citizens Due Process must also become a priority matter of the US DOE. In May and June, 2007 the Greene County Board of Commissioners requested the following "Require the US DOE to immediately release all underlying data considered and/or relied upon for its congestion studies. The release must allow sufficient time for review before the end of the 60 day comment period." On June 22nd and June 26th we received responses, but no information.

I oppose the designation of NIETC for all of the above reasons.

Thank you for coming to Southwestern PA.

Robbie Matesic *July 6, 2007*

Robbie M. Matesic, Executive Director
Greene County, PA Department of Economic Development